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Gille Hrabal Struck Neidlein Prop Roos	
Eingang am:	27. April 2006
	Frist:
	Vorfrist

EPO Customer Services  
Tel.: +31 (0)70 340 45 00

Date  
27.04.06

Reference  
T63 088 - oka

Application No./Patent No.  
04713189.1 - 2122 PCT/JP2004001995

Applicant/Proprietor  
MITSUBISHI MATERIALS CORPORATION

#### COMMUNICATION

The European Patent Office herewith transmits as an enclosure the supplementary European search report under Article 157(2)(a) EPC for the above-mentioned European patent application.

If applicable, copies of the documents cited in the European search report are attached.

Additional set(s) of copies of the documents cited in the European search report is (are) enclosed as well.

#### Refund of the search fee

If applicable under Article 10 Rules relating to fees, a separate communication from the Receiving Section on the refund of the search fee will be sent later.





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DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)
P, X ✓	WO 03/057933 A (MITSUBISHI MATERIALS CORPORATION; SUGAHARA, KATSUO) 17 July 2003 (2003-07-17) * page 27 – page 28; examples B1-B21; tables B1-B2 *	1-10	C22C19/05 H01M8/10 H01M8/24 H01M8/02
P, X	* page 23 – page 24; examples A1-A21; tables A1-A2 *	11-18	
A	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 1998, no. 01, 30 January 1998 (1998-01-30) -& JP 09 256087 A (MITSUBISHI MATERIALS CORP.), 30 September 1997 (1997-09-30) * abstract * * examples 1-35; tables 1-4 *	1-18	
P, A	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 2003, no. 10, 8 October 2003 (2003-10-08) -& JP 2003 173792 A (MITSUBISHI MATERIALS CORP.), 20 June 2003 (2003-06-20) * abstract * *examples Tables 1 & 2 *	1-18	
E	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 2003, no. 12, 5 December 2003 (2003-12-05) -& JP 2005 317479 A (DAIDO STEEL CO LTD), 10 November 2005 (2005-11-10) * abstract * *examples Table 1*	1-8	
A	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 1995, no. 07, 31 August 1995 (1995-08-31) -& JP 07 090440 A (SUMITOMO SPECIAL METALS CO LTD), 4 April 1995 (1995-04-04) * abstract * *example 1, Table 1*	1-18	
The supplementary search report has been based on the last set of claims valid and available at the start of the search.			
1	Place of search Munich	Date of completion of the search 4 April 2006	Examiner Gavriliu, A
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS			
X: particularly relevant if taken alone Y: particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A: technological background O: non-written disclosure P: intermediate document			
T: theory or principle underlying the invention E: earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D: document cited in the application L: document cited for other reasons &: member of the same patent family, corresponding document			



### CLAIMS INCURRING FEES

The present European patent application comprised at the time of filing more than ten claims.

- Only part of the claims have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims and for those claims for which claims fees have been paid, namely claim(s):
  
- No claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims.

### LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

see sheet B

- All further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for all claims.
- As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, the Search Division did not invite payment of any additional fee.
- Only part of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the inventions in respect of which search fees have been paid, namely claims:
  
- None of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims, namely claims:



The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

1. claims: 1-10

Ni-based alloy containing Cr 29-42 wt % and Ta 1-3 wt %

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2. claims: 11-18

Ni-based alloy containing Cr 43-50 wt % and no Tantalum

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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT  
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 04 71 3189

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.  
The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on  
The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

04-04-2006

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date		Patent family member(s)		Publication date
WO 03057933	A	17-07-2003	CN DE US	1639368 A 10392186 T5 2005158203 A1		13-07-2005 05-01-2005 21-07-2005
JP 09256087	A	30-09-1997		NONE		
JP 2003173792	A	20-06-2003		NONE		
JP 2005317479	A	10-11-2005		NONE		
JP 07090440	A	04-04-1995		NONE		

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For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82